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# On track to legacy

By Jamie Adams

Two new off-road bike tracks out the back of Scots College will be an asset to the local community as well as the school - and all thanks to the initiative of three of its students.

The students - Noah Stephens, Orlando Pender and Kobe Fulljames - were year 6 preparatory school boys in 2016, when their class was asked to come up with ideas for a project that would have a lasting impact.

"Urbanisation was reducing opportunities for boys to play outdoors, so we wanted to get them back outside," Noah says.

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Year 8 Scots College students Noah Stephens and Orlando Pender on the school's new loop track, the result of an idea they and fellow student Kobe Fulljames conceived in 2016.  
PHOTO: Jamie Adams

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# Scots students' bike track idea becomes reality

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"We thought it would be cool for the school to have a recreational bike track."

"We also wanted it for the community and not just have Scots College using it," Orlando adds.

The three discussed their idea with the prep school principal Mike Hansen, who then got the Wellington City Council on board. They in turn contacted the Bikes On Trust, which runs

a nationwide "Bikes In Schools" programme, who were enthusiastic about seeing the boys' idea come to fruition.

The council parks team saw the public land behind the school as an ideal spot that would benefit the development of young cyclists from the wider community.

The idea led to two tracks being developed.

The project was carried out in two stages for each one - an as-

phalt loop track which encircles almost the entire park which was completed in November, and a smaller dirt "skills track" featuring bridges and a slalom.

While construction work had caused some disruption to the users of the park's playground, Mike says the loop track had been well used by the public.

"There's been lots of stories of families having picnics nearby with their sons and daughters riding on it."

The \$110,000 project, which was collaboratively funded by the trust, the council and the college, includes the school's purchase of 55 new Allterra bicycles from Burkes Cycles.

Bike On Trust will provide billboards about safely using the track while another organisation, Get Pedal Ready, will periodically visit to give lessons on riding.

"It will be an in-class program. It could be part of PE," Mike says.

While the track will only be available to year 1-7 students during the school's recreation periods, Mike says older students who are not familiar with bike

opportunity of learning to pedal.

He believes the loop track helps novice cyclists prepare well for road riding, while the skills track allows them to practice for the greater demands of BMX riding.

The college is also in discussion with Seatoun Primary and Kahurangi schools about allowing their pupils to use it during certain times of the week.

"I've met with the [Raukawa] Community Centre about the bikes they have been collecting and repairing for the community to use," Mike says.

"We have been talking about getting more people to donate to the group for lending to kids who don't have them to use on our tracks."

As for the boys' verdict on their completed project?

"I didn't expect it to be this awesome," Orlando says.

While they are now too old to use the track themselves during school hours, they are delighted to have conceived something that will leave a legacy for future generations to enjoy.

The three boys will be given the honour to cut the ribbon when the tracks are officially opened in a few weeks time



Noah Stephens, right, and Orlando Pender try out the new skills